

and 3 to 100 parts by weight of a paraffinic mineral oil softening agent (c) having an evaporation loss of 0.4% by weight or less at a condition of 200 °C, atmospheric pressure and 1 hour and having a kinetic viscosity (40 °C) of 50 to 250 cSt.

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Claim 4 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition is cross-linked with a crosslinking agent which is an organic peroxide.

Claim 5 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 4, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition has a gel content which is 98% or less.

Claim 6 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition is cross-linked with a crosslinking agent which is a phenolic curative.

Claim 7 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 6, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition has a gel content which is 98% or less.

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*cancel*  
Claim 8 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition has a haze value determined at a condition of 100 °C and 3 hours according to the prescription of A method of DIN 75201 which is 3% or less.

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*a3*  
Claim 11 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 1 which is produced by the step of static heat treatment, subsequent to dynamic heat treatment, under the following conditions:

$$Q \geq 0.1 \text{ and } t \geq 2^{-(T-110)/10}$$

wherein Q is a quantity ( $\text{m}^3/(\text{hour} \cdot \text{kg})$ ) of hot air supplied upon drying per the unit weight of the substance to be treated, t is a heat treatment time (hour) and T is a temperature (°C) of the hot air just before hitting the substance to be treated.

Claim 12 (Amended) A fully or partially crosslinked olefinic thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising 10 to 90 parts by weight of a crystalline polypropylene resin (a'), 90 to 10 parts by weight of an olefin-based copolymer rubber (b) (the total amount of the components (a') and (b) being 100 parts by weight), 3 to 30 parts by weight of a polyethylene resin (d) and

3 to 100 parts by weight of a paraffinic mineral oil softening agent (c) having an evaporation loss of 0.4% by weight or less at a condition of 200 °C, atmospheric pressure and 1 hour and having a kinetic viscosity (40 °C) of 50 to 250 cSt.

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amended*

Claim 13 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 12 which is produced by the step of static heat treatment, subsequent to dynamic heat treatment, under the following conditions:

$$Q \geq 0.1 \text{ and } t \geq 2^{-(T-110)/10}$$

wherein Q is a quantity ( $\text{m}^3/(\text{hour} \cdot \text{kg})$ ) of hot air supplied upon drying per the unit weight of the substance to be treated, t is a heat treatment time (hour) and T is a temperature (°C) of the hot air just before hitting the substance to be treated.

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Claim 17 (Amended) An olefinic thermoplastic elastomer composition which is produced by the step of dynamically heat treating a mixture including 40 to 85 parts by weight of an ethylene-based copolymer rubber (A), 60 to 15 parts by weight of an olefinic resin (B) and 45 parts by weight or less of a softening agent (C) (the total amount of the components (A), (B) and (C) being 100 parts by weight) in the presence of a

crosslinking agent and which gives a gloss value of 80% or more and a haze value of 10% or less on glass plate when subjected to the fogging test at a condition of 100 °C and 3 hours according to the prescription of A method of DIN 75201 using 10 g of the pellets.

*Added*  
Claim 18 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in Claim 17 which is produced by the step of static heat treatment, subsequent to dynamic heat treatment, under the following conditions:

$$Q \geq 0.1 \text{ and } t \geq 2^{-(T-110)/10}$$

wherein Q is a quantity ( $\text{m}^3/(\text{hour} \cdot \text{kg})$ ) of hot air supplied upon drying per the unit weight of the substance to be treated, t is a heat treatment time (hour) and T is a temperature (°C) of the hot air just before hitting the substance to be treated.

*as*  
Claim 20 (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition which is produced by the step of static heat treatment, subsequent to dynamic heat treatment, under the following conditions:

$$Q \geq 0.1 \text{ and } t \geq 2^{-(T-110)/10}$$

AS  
wms  
wherein Q is a quantity ( $\text{m}^3/(\text{hour} \cdot \text{kg})$ ) of hot air supplied upon drying per the unit weight of the substance to be treated, t is a heat treatment time (hour) and T is a temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) of the hot air just before hitting the substance to be treated.

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Please add the following new claim:

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--24. A method for manufacturing the fully or partially crosslinked olefinic thermoplastic elastomer composition as defined in claim 1, which comprises subjecting to dynamic heat treatment in the presence of a crosslinking agent 10 to 90 parts by weight of a crystalline polyolefin (a), 90 to 10 parts by weight of an olefin-based copolymer rubber (b) (the total amount of the components (a) and (b) being 100 parts by weight) and 3 to 100 parts by weight of a paraffinic mineral oil softening agent (c) having an evaporation loss of 0.4% by weight or less at a condition of 200  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , atmospheric pressure and 1 hour and having a kinetic viscosity (40  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) of 50 to 250 cSt. --

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